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PATENT

1073 U 19/955832 PRO  
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# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dennis A. Lonergan et al.  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Herewith  
For: FROZEN DOUGH HAVING  
DECREASED PROOF TIME

Docket No.: PIL0064/US

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL789926199US

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97, 1.98 and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 609, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information. The Examiner's independent and thorough review of this information is solicited.

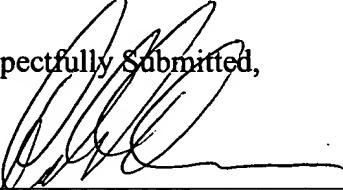
Attached hereto please find Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references. Copies of the cited references are also enclosed. The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of each reference by initialing in the appropriate box for each reference, and returning an initialed copy with the next official action.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to bring to the Examiner's attention those references which may be material to the Examiner for examination of this case. However, the citation of the above references in this Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent or other reference referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention. In this regard, Applicants expressly reserve the right to contest that any of the references constitute "prior art."

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September 19, 2001

No fee is believed to be necessary for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed within three months of the filing date or before the receipt of an Office Action on the merits. However, if a fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 

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DAB/1422